

The list of High Unemployment Areas (HUAs) has been updated for Grant Year 2017. This list is updated twice a year; once prior to the qualification year and once during the qualification year as updated data becomes available from the Virginia Employment Commission. Previously, positions paying less than 175 percent of the federal minimum wage were not eligible for the JCG. However, an amendment to the statute now allows otherwise eligible businesses in high unemployment areas paying 150 percent of the federal minimum wage (\$10.88/hour) to receive grants. The current high unemployment area zones authorized by this provision are listed below.

2017 Enterprise Zone Grant Application			
High Unemployment Areas (HUA)			
Brunswick County	32	City of Martinsville	36, 54*
City of Danville	1, 57*	City of Petersburg	10, 47*
Dickenson County (Clintwood & Haysi)	49	City of Portsmouth	4, 20
City of Emporia	43*	Tazewell County	44
City of Hopewell	9	Wise County	52
<i>*The following communities in joint zones are NOT HUAs: Dinwiddie County, Greensville County, Henry County, and Pittsylvania County. Businesses in these communities are not eligible for the reduced wage threshold. Source: DHCD based on the LAUS Unit and Bureau of Labor Statistics 2016 Annual Virginia Unemployment Report.</i>			

The City of Portsmouth and Wise County are now considered HUA zones. Businesses in these zones are eligible to apply for the \$500/PFTE Job Creation Grant at the reduced wage rate threshold of 150% of the Federal Minimum Wage (FMW) or \$10.88 per hour.

The following localities are no longer considered HUA zones:

Covington	Lancaster County (Kilmarnock)
Galax	Mecklenburg County
Franklin (City)	Page County
Greensville County	Prince Edward County
Halifax County	Richmond County
Henry County	Smyth County

Businesses in these zones that have previously applied for the JCG as HUA applicants may continue to qualify for the \$500 grant at the reduced wage threshold of \$10.88/hour for the remainder of their 5-year grant period. However, **any new business applying for the JCG in these zones must pay a wage rate threshold of at least 175% of the FMW (\$12.69/hour) to be eligible for the grant.**

Any business applying as an HUA applicant must use form **EZ-JCG-HUA** and fill out the **JCG-HUA Worksheet**. These documents are specifically tailored to accommodate the reduced wage rate threshold.